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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/944,895	08/31/2001	Will Fetherolf	10017930-1	4073

7590 04/22/2005
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EXAMINER	
QIN, YIXING	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2622	

DATE MAILED: 04/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/944,895	Applicant(s) FETHEROLF ET AL.	
	Examiner Yixing Qin	Art Unit 2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-47 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-47 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

I. Claims 1-4, 6, 15-17, 25-27, and 36-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102b as being anticipated by Wakisaka et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,740,336).

I will address the independent claims first.

1. Claims 1 and 15

A system of control panels for multifunction print devices, the system of control panels comprising multiple control panels each of which include/ a control panel for multifunction print devices comprising:

- **multiple regions each of which are associated with a different function of the multifunction print devices;**
- Wakisaka et al discloses in Fig. 4 a control panel for a multifunction device. One can see the regions associated with facsimile, printer and copy functions.

- **selectable controls grouped by functional relation into one or more control groups, the selectable controls of an individual control group arranged within a region associated with a function of the individual control group; and**
- One can see the buttons are grouped together according to the function they performed.
- **at least one control panel having the selectable controls arranged within less than all of the multiple regions.**
- One can see the numbers buttons for the facsimile portion of the device are arranged within the facsimile portion.

25. Claim 25

A system of control panels for multifunction devices, the system of control panels comprising multiple control panels each of which include:

- **multiple regions each of which are associated with a different function of the multifunction devices;**
- Wakisaka et al discloses in Fig. 4 a control panel for a multifunction device. One can see the regions associated with facsimile, printer and copy functions.
- **one or more selectable controls arranged within one or more of the multiple regions, the one or more selectable controls within any one region having individual functionality associated with the different function of the one region;**

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- One can see the buttons are grouped together according to the function they performed.
- **the multiple regions including a print region having one or more selectable printing controls associated with a print function of the multifunction devices, and a copy region having one or more selectable copying controls associated with a copy function of the multifunction devices; and**
- One can see the printer and copy regions in Fig. 4 of Wakasaki as well.
- **at least one control panel having selectable controls arranged within less than all of the multiple regions.**
- One can see the numbers buttons for the facsimile portion of the device are arranged within the facsimile portion.

36. A method, comprising:

- **defining multiple regions of a control panel for a multifunction device;**
- Wakisaka et al discloses in Fig. 4 a control panel for a multifunction device. One can see the regions associated with facsimile, printer and copy functions.
- **associating an individual region with a particular function of the multifunction device, the particular function selected from a group of functions including printing, copying, scanning, and faxing;**
- One can see the buttons are grouped together according to the function they performed, which include facsimile, printer, and copy.

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- **associating one or more selectable controls with the individual region, the one or more selectable controls having individual functionality associated with the particular function of the individual region; and**
- One can see the functional controls are associated with each region.
- **producing multiple control panels some of which have selectable controls in less than all of the multiple regions.**
- Each region can be interpreted to be a "control panel" and one can see the controls within **less than all of the multiple regions.**

2. Claims 2, 16, 26, 37

A system of control panels as recited in claim 1, wherein

- **the multiple control panels each include a display panel configured to display information pertaining to a multifunction print device.**
- Wakisaka et al discloses in Fig. 4 (item 147) and column 5, lines 51-53 that "...liquid crystal display 147 displays the information relating to the various functions [of the multifunction device]."

3. Claims 3, 17, 27, 38

A system of control panels as recited in claim 1, wherein

- **at least one control panel further includes a label to indicate the different functions of a particular multifunction print device, and to identify a**

position on the control panel of the control groups corresponding to the different functions.

- One can see all the labels in Fig. 4 of Wakisaka et al for the facsimile, printer, and copy functions as well as for various buttons.

4. Claims 4, 6, 39, and 40

A system of control panels as recited in claim 1, wherein the multiple regions include:

- **a print region having a print control group of selectable printing controls associated with a print function of a multifunction print devices; and**
- Wakisaka et al discloses in Fig. 4, printer region and keys (item 143)
- **a copy region having a copy control group of selectable copying controls associated with a copy function of the multifunction print devices.**
- Wakisaka et al discloses in Fig. 4, copy region and keys (item 144)
- Claims 6/40 is essentially claim 4/39 with the display panel as addressed in claim 2.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

II. Claims 8, 10, 12-14, 22-24, 30, 31, 33, 34, 42, 43, 45, and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakisaka et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,740,336).

8. Claims 8, 10, 42 and 43

A system of control panels as recited in claim 1, wherein the multiple regions include:

- **a print region having a print control group of selectable printing controls associated with a print function of a multifunction print device;**
- **a copy region having a copy control group of selectable copying controls associated with a copy function of the multifunction print device;**
- The above two limitations have been addressed in claim 4.
- **and a scan region having a scan control group of scanning controls associated with a scan function of the multifunction print device.**
- From Fig. 4 of Wakisaka, one can see that there are the facsimile, printer and copy regions, but only a "super q. scan" button, in the middle row of buttons, second one from the right. Even though there is no scan region, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have made a region for scan controls. The motivation would be to have more scanning controls, depending on the functionality of the scanning component of the multifunction device.

- Claim 10/43 is essentially claim 8/42 with the display panel as addressed in claim 2.

12. Claims 12, 13, 22, 23, 45, and 46

A system of control panels as recited in claim 1, wherein the multiple regions include:

- **a print region having a print control group of selectable printing controls associated with a print function of a multifunction print device;**
- **a copy region having a copy control group of selectable copying controls associated with a copy function of the multifunction print device;**
- **a scan region having a scan control group of selectable scanning controls associated with a scan function of the multifunction print device; and**
- **a fax region having a fax control group of selectable faxing controls associated with a fax function of the multifunction device.**
- Claim 12/22 is essentially claim 8 with an added fax region. One can see in Fig. 4 of Wakisaka et al that there is a facsimile region.
- Claim 13/23/46 is essentially claim 12/22/45 with the display panel as addressed in claim 2/16.
- The motivation for having regions and controls for all four functions would be to have easier user control over common functions of various reproduction apparatuses in the multifunctional device as disclosed by Wakisaka et al.

14. Claims 14, and 24

A system of control panels as recited in claim 11, wherein the multiple regions include:

- **a fax region having a fax control group of selectable faxing controls associated with a fax function of the multifunction device, the selectable faxing controls selected from a group including:**
 - **a first faxing control configured to adjust a volume of an audible output;**
 - **a second faxing control configured to list destination fax numbers;**
 - **a third faxing control configured to select fax resolution;**
 - **a fourth faxing control configured to redial a destination fax number, and further configured to pause transmitting a fax;**
 - **a fifth faxing control configured to initiate a fax;**
 - **a keypad to dial a destination fax number; and**
 - **one or more speed dial selectable controls to dial a destination fax number.**

- **Wakasaki et al discloses in Fig. 4 various facsimile related functions.**

Although not all of the functions are disclosed, it would be obvious to implement the above claimed controls because they are common facsimile related controls. The motivation for additional controls is for controlling a facsimile device with more capabilities.

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30. Claim 30

A system of control panels as recited in claim 25, wherein

- **the multiple regions further include a scan region having one or more selectable scanning controls associated with a scan function of the multifunction device.**
- This limitation has been addressed in claim 8.

31. Claim 31

A system of control panels as recited in claim 25, wherein

- **the multiple control panels each include a display panel configured to display information pertaining to a multifunction device, and wherein**
- This limitation has been addressed in claim 2.
- **the multiple regions further include a scan region having one or more selectable scanning controls associated with a scan function of the multifunction device.**
- This limitation has been addressed in claim 8.

33. Claim 33 and 34

A system of control panels as recited in claim 25, wherein the multiple regions further include:

- **a scan region having one or more selectable scanning controls associated with a scan function of the multifunction device; and**

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- **a fax region having one or more selectable faxing controls associated with a fax function of the multifunction device.**
- These limitations have been addressed in claim 12.
- Claim 34 essentially adds the displays as addressed in claim 2.

III. Claims 5, 9, 18, 20, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakisaka et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,740,336) in view of Tomita (U.S. Patent No. 5,999,765)

5. Claims 5 and 18

A system of control panels as recited in claim 1, wherein the multiple regions include:

- **a print region having a print control group of selectable printing controls associated with a print function of a multifunction print device;**
- Wakisaka et al discloses in Fig. 4, printer region and keys (item 143).
- **a copy region having a copy control group of selectable copying controls associated with a copy function of the multifunction print device;**
- Wakisaka et al discloses in Fig. 4, copy region and keys (item 144).
- **a scan region without selectable scanning controls; and**
- **a fax region without selectable faxing controls.**

- The examiner would like to point out that these areas are essentially blank areas on a control interface for a printer-copier device (such as seen in Fig. 4 of the applicant's drawings). It would be obvious not to implement controls for scanning and faxing functions since the device mentioned do not have scanning and faxing functions (i.e. a machine is to be made without scanning and faxing capabilities). Please also note that interfaces for a printer-copier have been patented (i.e. Tomita – U.S. Patent No. 5,999,765).
- Both references are in the art of control of reproduction machines. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have simply made a multifunctional device with only printer and copier functions. The motivation to not include mechanisms (such as fax/scan) in a device would be to reduce the complexity and cost of the machine if those features are not deemed necessary in the environment in which the multifunctional device would be used.

9. Claims 9 and 20

A system of control panels as recited in claim 1, wherein the multiple regions include:

- **a print region having a print control group of selectable printing controls associated with a print function of a multifunction print device;**
- **a copy region having a copy control group of selectable copying controls associated with a copy function of the multifunction print device;**

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- **a scan region having a scan control group of scanning controls associated with a scan function of the multifunction print device; and**
- **a fax region without selectable faxing controls.**
- This claim is essentially a combination of claims 5 and 8. The examiner would like to note that the different combination of regions with or without controls is obvious over at least the Wakisaka and Tomita references mentioned in claim 5.

28. Claim 28

A system of control panels as recited in claim 25, wherein

- **the multiple regions further include a scan region without selectable scanning controls, and a fax region without selectable faxing controls.**
- This limitation has been addressed in claim 5.

IV. Claims 7, 19, 29, 35, 41, and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakisaka et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,740,336) in view of Altrieth, III et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,642,185).

7. Claims 7, 19, 29, and 41

A system of control panels as recited in claim 1, wherein the multiple regions include:

- **a print region having a print control group of selectable printing controls associated with a print function of the multifunction print devices, the selectable printing controls selected from a group including:**
 - **a first printing control configured to cancel a print job;**
 - Wakisaka et al discloses in Fig. 4 a stop key.
 - **a second printing control configured to select a menu option on a display panel;**
 - Wakisaka et al discloses in Fig. 5 and column 6, lines 52-55 that "...each of the setting items and selectable options for each item are displayed on the liquid crystal display 147..."
 - **one or more display controls configured to display information on the display panel;**
 - Wakisaka et al discloses in Fig. 4 (item 147) and column 5, lines 51-53 that "...liquid crystal display 147 displays the information relating to the various functions [of the multifunction device]."
- **a copy region having a copy control group of selectable copying controls associated with a copy function of the multifunction print devices, the selectable copying controls selected from a group including:**
 - Wakisaka et al discloses in Fig. 4, copy region and keys (item 144).
 - **a first copying control configured to select copy exposure;**
 - **a second copying control configured to select a number of copies;**
 - **a third copying control configured to select copy size;**

- **a fourth copying control configured to select copy quality;**
- **a fifth copying control configured to select collation of copies;**
- **a sixth copying control configured to select paper size; and**
- **a seventh copying control configured to initiate a copy.**
- Although Wakasaki et al discloses a copy region, it does not explicitly disclose all of the above listed copying controls. However, the secondary reference, Althrieth, III et al discloses in Fig. 3 a variety of functions that can be performed by a copier.
- Both references are in the art of control systems for reproduction apparatuses. This will serve as the motivation for the combination of there two references from hereon. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include more copy control buttons. The motivation would be to have more buttons if a more powerful (i.e. has more functions) copying component is used.

Claims 35 and 47

A system of control panels as recited in claim 32, wherein:

- **the multiple regions include further include a fax region having one or more selectable faxing controls associated with a fax function of the multifunction device, the one or more selectable faxing controls selected from a group including:**

- **a first faxing control configured to adjust a volume of an audible output;**
 - **a second faxing control configured to list destination fax numbers;**
 - **a third faxing control configured to select fax resolution;**
 - **a fourth faxing control configured to redial a destination fax number, and further configured to pause transmitting a fax;**
 - **a fifth faxing control configured to initiate a fax;**
 - **a keypad to dial a destination fax number; and**
 - **one or more speed dial selectable controls to dial a destination fax number.**
- Wakasaki et al discloses in Fig. 4 various facsimile related functions. Although not all of the functions are disclosed, it would be obvious to implement the above claimed controls because they appear to be common facsimile related controls. The motivation for additional controls is for controlling a facsimile device with more capabilities.

V. Claims 11, 21, 32, and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakisaka et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,740,336) in view of Altrieth, III et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,642,185) and further in view of Morisaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,946,107)

11. Claims 11, 21, 32, and 44

A system of control panels as recited in claim 7, wherein the multiple regions further include:

- **a scan region having a scan control group of selectable scanning controls associated with a scan function of the multifunction print device, the selectable scanning controls selected from a group including:**
 - **a first scanning control configured to select a destination location for a scanned image; and**
 - Although the Wakisaka et al and Altrieth, III et al references discloses a variety of functions, neither reference discloses that a scanning control configured to select a destination location.
 - However, the tertiary reference, Morisaki discloses in column 6, lines 18-22 that “[w]hen an operator sets a document onto the image scanner 13, operates the operator panel 11 to enter necessary information, and specifies a destination, the CPU 3 performs a memory read operation according to the following procedure.” Although it is not explicitly stated that there is a “control,” it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the panel had buttons or a touch panel in order for the user to input commands.
 - **a second scanning control configured to initiate a scan.**
 - From Fig. 4 of Wakisaka, one can see a “super q. scan” button, in the middle row of buttons, second one from the right.

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- All three references are in the art of reproduction apparatuses. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to further improve a multifunction device with a scanning section with controls to designate a destination location to scan images to. The motivation for additional controls for scanning would be so that a more powerful scanning mechanism can be used in a multifunctional device.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yixing Qin whose telephone number is (571)272-7381. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on (571)272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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